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UTAH COUNTY BUSINESSMAN ORDERED TO PAY UP FOR STEALING EMPLOYEES' TAXES

The owner of a Utah County marketing business was ordered to pay \$241,000 for pocketing the payroll taxes from his employees. Stephen Zimmerman, 58, pleaded guilty on August 1 to two third-degree felony counts of unlawful dealing with property by a fiduciary and filing false tax documents.

Zimmerman was the owner of Professional Global Marketing Data Services Inc. when he kept state taxes owed by his family and employees between 2005 and 2009. He then submitted false W-2 forms to the Utah Tax Commission that claimed the taxes had been paid to the state.



"Plain and simple this is theft against every taxpayer in Utah," says Attorney General Mark Shurtleff. "My hat goes off to the prosecutors and investigators who work so vigilantly to stop tax fraud."

Third District Court Judge Randall Skanchy sentenced Zimmerman to serve up to five years in prison which will be suspended if the terms of his probation are completed successfully and full restitution of more than \$241,000 is paid.

"This crime has a serious impact on the citizens of this state who pay their share of income taxes," says Utah Tax Commission Spokesperson Charlie Roberts. "When employers fail to pay the entrusted payroll taxes, they are stealing other taxpayers' income taxes."

The Utah Attorney General's Office prosecuted the case which was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Utah State Tax Commission. Zimmerman's mugshot is at <http://www.attorneygeneral.utah.gov/cmsimages/ZimmermanStephan.jpg>.

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